



## **A GIS Intern's Perspective on SCA and working with the Army Corps of Engineers**

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My experience with SCA began a few months after I graduated with a degree in geology. I wanted to find a job, but was unsure as to which path I wanted to take. SCA provided an opportunity I couldn't find anywhere else. The GIS/GPS internship I accepted encouraged me with real-world experience, and allowed me to expand my knowledge base as well.

So, what's the value in an SCA internship? Anyone just out of college inevitably notices something about most job announcements: they require prior experience. Strong professional references would be helpful, too – many college grads leave school with little more than their degree and possibly references from professors.

SCA offers internships with a diverse group of federal, state and local agencies that present an opportunity to gain much-needed real-world experience, contacts and references – which all make finding a “real” job a great deal easier.

My internship began with a well-defined scope. Whether due to my propensity to branch off in any direction, changing needs of the agency, or a combination of the two, I ended up working on an incredibly diverse array of projects.

In the process, I learned skills in wildlife, recreation and maintenance fields in addition to the GIS skills integral to my position. Even more importantly, I gained insight into how I should operate in a professional workplace. Dealing with people, managing my own time and setting priorities, keeping the right people informed of my progress and learning new skills in a timely fashion are only the most obvious skills I have gained.

SCA provides a unique opportunity and experience for recent grads or current students. Getting a foot in the door can be the hardest and most important step for entering the world after college.

